

MINUTES

Mt Pleasant Project Community Consultative Committee

Meeting Held 8th March 2007

Present:

John Douglas	Chairman – MSC Councillor
Antony Bijok	Coal & Allied General Manager Mt Pleasant Project
Stephen Sneddon	Coal & Allied Community Relations Specialist
Richard Bailey	Coal & Allied Manager Mining Mt Pleasant Project
Ruth Kinal	Coal & Allied Environmental Officer Projects & Approvals
Trevor Parkinson	Community Representative
Jim Lonergan	Community Representative
Ken Weekes	Community Representative
Chris Gidney	Director Environmental Services MSC

Minute Taker:

Katherine Addinall Coal & Allied

- 1. Meeting Opened at 1pm:** Chairperson Cr John Douglas opened the meeting.
- 2. Emergency Procedures and Housekeeping:** Presented by Chris Gidney. Chris indicated where the toilets, emergency areas and evacuation areas were.
- 3. Safety Tip:** Presented by Stephen Sneddon. Stephen explained that with winter approaching the use of fires and heating devices in the home will increase. For this reason it is important to discuss and practice a home evacuation plan with other members of the family especially children.
- 4. Apologies:** Dion Lucke (Coal & Allied Manager Infrastructure and Support Services – Mount Pleasant Project) *Motion:* That the apology of Dion Lucke be accepted. *Moved:* Ken Weekes / *Seconded:* Jim Lonergan - *Carried.*
- 5. Declaration of pecuniary interests:** Nil
- 6. Confirmation of Minutes:** *Motion:* The minutes of the previous meeting held 7th December 2006 be accepted. *Moved:* Trevor Parkinson / *Seconded:* Ken Weekes - *Carried.*
- 7. Business Arising from the Minutes:**
Chris Gidney: Would like to thank CNA for looking after the CCC at the last meeting. The opportunity to inspect the coal loader and port facilities was extremely valuable and interesting.

8. Community Representative Feedback:

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Jim Lonergan: People are wondering about what measures will be put in place to counteract greenhouse gases. There is nothing in the Mount Pleasant conditions to offset emissions.
- Antony Bijok: Will be talking about Rio Tinto's approach to climate change later in the meeting, is it okay to address you question then if the presentation doesn't already answer it.
- Richard Bailey: As part of the Environment Assessment we are considering the impacts in terms of emissions.

Mine Lease

- Jim Lonergan: Wondering what stage the Mine Lease is up to. Early in December 2006, Jennifer Anderson called to say that they are starting to roll out the Mine Lease. It was explained that the lease wouldn't cover the surface of privately owned property. The Minister had said landowners should be properly informed. Jennifer Anderson committed to phone or write to Jim to explain what was happening, but he still hasn't had any contact.
- Antony Bijok: Explained that this is a 'Swiss Cheese' Mine Lease. This means that CNA has a lease over the coal and has the right to mine coal except coal under private ownership. This allows security of getting a Mine Lease but also recognises the rights of private ownership. Landowners will be contacted shortly.
- John Douglas: Can Jennifer Anderson contact Jim Lonergan to discuss.
- Antony Bijok: Can organise a meeting to provide an update. Antony will follow up with Jennifer Anderson to discuss the matter.
- Trevor Parkinson: No community feedback.

Western Road Strategy

- Ken Weekes: A number of options were raised; do we know which option is to be followed?
- Chris Gidney: This is to do with the extending Bengalla link road to Wybong Road past Castlerock Road to the New England Highway. Awaiting the Anvil Hill decision which is expected after the 24th March. Bengalla still in negotiations with Muswellbrook Shire Council about how to connect to Wybong Road. Generally the road alignment for extending to Wybong Road has been established as part of the Bengalla extension. From there, further discussions with Mount Pleasant for western edge past Mount Pleasant. No longer considering a roundabout. The intention is that the area to the alluvial's will be closed and product from that areas will be taken by Mount Pleasant and Bengalla.
- Ken Weekes: More concerned about the other end of the link road.
- Chris Gidney: Do you mean the Dorset Road extension.
- Ken Weekes: Yes.
- Chris Gidney: The options went to the works committee and discussions are planned to go before Muswellbrook Council meeting on Monday Night (12th March).
- Ken Weekes: So general plan has been firmed up?

Chris Gidney: Yes. More concerned to date with ensuring linkage from Anvil Hill to Denman. Road north now to be considered and will talk to Mount Pleasant about this.

Ken Weekes: So northern end is not going to Muswellbrook Council meeting on Monday night.

Chris Gidney: No. Next weeks meeting is only in relation to the southern end. Extension of the western link road is part of the Mount Pleasant consent and the company has acknowledged this. More information will be provided at the next meeting.

Jim Lonergan: Do you have a map which can explain this.

Richard Bailey: Have a slide in our presentation which will explain it.

Jim Lonergan: What sort of quality will the road be?

Chris Gidney: It will be a 100km/h zone in most areas so the road will need to meet certain standards.

9. Status Report:

Presented by Richard Bailey. This will provide an update on the project as we committed to do in the last meeting.

Project Status

Richard Bailey: Feasibility continues - The same team has been continuing the feasibility study. This is due to be completed by the end of 2007.

Engineering Design nearing completion - Engineering design is part of the feasibility process. This includes layout designs of CPP, office buildings, workshop. This process is nearing completion.

Cost estimation and valuation phase commencing - Phase now of getting construction costs as we need accurate costs for project economics. Following cost estimates we will put all project economics together to determine an all up project value – a net project value.

Environmental confirmation studies nearing completion – In parallel, now working on an environmental study. This involves updating and refreshing environmental aspects of the 1997 EIS. The environmental section of the EIS is somewhat dated and we felt it needed to be refreshed to meet internal and regulatory standards. Most sections are in the report writing stage. Although there was a late start on the dust section, it is now underway. Also working on an assessment of climate change and greenhouse gas impacts.

Ken Weekes: Can you explain what is happening about dust.

Richard Bailey: ACARP are doing a regional dust study around Muswellbrook. They are generating a report on the cumulative dust impact. This includes the impact of existing and proposed mines in the region.

Stephen Sneddon: The report is in its first draft stage.

Ken Weekes: Will this impact on levels that Mount Pleasant needs to comply with?

Richard Bailey: No, Mount Pleasant will have to comply with the levels in the development consent. We are interested in the cumulative impact and how we may contribute to this.

John Douglas: On the issue of costs, surely planning is advanced more than costing. Isn't there a long wait list on heavy equipment?

Richard Bailey: Need Rio Tinto sanction which will require tighter details on costs to get sign off. The timeframes are tight. We are not planning to make any specific commitments to equipment until we have final approval. Within the range of start up and construction would be able to get equipment in time for operation.

Antony Bijok: Rio Tinto has long term contracts with suppliers and Mount Pleasant has been considered when making nominations for equipment. These nominations are reconsidered quarterly.

Jim Lonergan: After the proposal goes to Rio Tinto, how long until they will give approval.

Anthony Bijok: Not long, we are targeting to present to the Board at the end of 2007. By then we will have had other technical presentations to other groups. It is fairly final by the time it is presented to the Board.

Richard Bailey: Already had pre-feasibility presentations to the Board and the Project has been approved to go to the next stage.

Richard Bailey: Mining Lease application progressing – There are different types of tenure including exploration leases and mining leases. Some time ago we made an initial Mining Lease Application, the CNA and the Department are now pushing to move on to completion of the Mining Lease Application. The Exploration Lease still applies across the whole area. The Mining Lease will give security of tenure for coal. The next stage of the Mining Lease Application will involve the Department issuing survey instructions. This involves physical measurements of boundaries and confirmation of coordinates to identify the boundary fence posts. Proposing to have full tenure on CNA land - surface to unlimited depth. Where land is privately owned, CNA is proposing subsurface rights but no lease over the surface. The Exploration Lease would still apply to this land.

Trevor Parkinson: The AEMR said the life of the consent is for 21 years which means 6 to 7 years have already gone by now. Will it be extended?

Richard Bailey: No, not initially only as the mine is nearing the end of the initial 21 year period would we need to apply for a new consent.

Antony Bijok: There is more than 21 years of coal mining within the lease area and as mining reaches the time or boundary limits CNA would need to apply for extensions to continue operations.

Richard Bailey: Even if we started mining in 1999 we would still have needed more time.

John Douglas: CNA will be able to apply for a new consent when the time is closer as a matter of due process.

Trevor Parkinson: Suggested that the AEMR should explain that a new consent could be applied for after the 21 years. As part of mine management do you have to tell Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) what you will produce each year?

Richard Bailey: Yes. We are currently approved to produce 10.5 mtpa of ROM Coal. We would need to get a variation to the consent if we wanted to increase production above what is consented to.

Jim Lonergan: Are you likely to go over?

Richard Bailey: We are focussing on the consented tonnes, however depending on technology and demand this may increase over time.

Richard Bailey: "Shop front" office opening soon – Intending to open shop front office in the coming weeks. Offer to show the CCC after the meeting. The office will be open to the public for face to face consultation and will allow the public to view plans. The shop front is at the old Westpac Bank. And we are anticipating having it ready to receive the public in early April
CEO elect (Tom Albanese) will visit in April – Lee Clifford who is currently the head of Rio Tinto worldwide will be retiring soon. Tom Albanese who is CEO elect will visit the Mount Pleasant site in April this year to see what the project is about.

Project Description

Richard Bailey: Generally in accordance with the 1999 Development Consent – not proposing anything significantly different to what is in the 1997 EIS.

Standalone mining operation - It will be a stand alone operation, all infrastructure will be within the Mining Lease Application area. Plan is based on open cut mining. Still need to establish a connection to the road and rail systems.

Production targets are 10.5 mtpa ROM which is approximately 7 mtpa of clean coal product.

Jim Lonergan: Will it be a dragline operation?

Richard Bailey: Draglines will be used but there will be more excavators than rope shovels.

The onsite offices, CPP, train loader and rail loop will be as per the EIS.

Map shows the layout of the site. Infrastructure will be located in the south western corner. Have changed the layout of the plant a little to minimise its impact and to make it more efficient and reduce costs. The mine is still working from east to west. External dump will be shaped to provide screening.

Slide shows details of hardstand area – includes offices, workshop, bathhouse, car parking etc. This requires detailed costing.

Seam Stratigraphy – Multiple seams and splits within Mount Pleasant mining area. Plan to mine from the Edderton seam and up in the southern area and from Vaux and up in the northern area. Quite detailed scheduling involved. At its thickest the seams are 6-8 metres and the thinnest are about 300mm.

John Douglas: Why didn't the Department want you to take the lower seams?

Richard Bailey: These may be long term targets if we wanted to. Too low for open cut mining.

In total there are about 35-40 metres of coal and about 230-240 metres of waste material.

Products and Markets

Richard Bailey: Markets are critical. Have to know the types of coal, where coal will be sent and the quality of coal. This impacts on price.

Coal from this area has slightly less energy than coal from Singleton and slightly higher moisture. It is good quality thermal export coal. The EIS referenced domestic markets. In the future may consider domestic markets but at this point all coal is intended for export.

Antony Bijok: The price offered by Macquarie Generation is approximately half the price of what we can get on the export market. This has impacted on the mine sequence.

Richard Bailey: Markets include - 12.5% ash to Japan, 14% ash which will be used for spot seaborne trade and will be exported to areas of Asia, Europe and Mexico. 17% ash will be sent to markets that are ash tolerant such as Korea. May get a discount for tolerating high ash.

Rural road diagram is straight from the EIS. Approach to road network hasn't shifted. The development consent conditions specify a number of obligations. The Bengalla Link Road already links to the Bengalla front gate. The next section will link to Wybong Road – this will be approximately 3.5 km. In terms of closing Castlerock Road, Mount Pleasant have committed to build the western link road to Castlerock, then the northern link road to Kayuga Rd. Planning to build and cost these roads as part of the project.

John Douglas: Have you seen residents in the area about this?

Richard Bailey: Not lately, but residents were spoken to in 1997 for the EIS and Council has been communicating the roads strategy.

Trevor Parkinson: Is this something you plan to do before the project starts.

Antony Bijok: Yes in consultation with Council. Sections of the roads will be needed for construction and to get equipment to site.

Sustainable Development

Richard Bailey: Water Management – trying to modify the project to minimise freshwater draw from the Hunter River. Looking into paste thickening tailings disposal which involves a process of drawing water out of the tailings prior to disposal to minimise water loss and allow the water to be quickly returned as process waters. Trying to minimise the number of dams to reduce evaporation and seepage lost. This will involve increasing the size of the main dam. Considering additives to road surfaces to minimise the use of water for controlling dust. Also looking into covering dams to reduce evaporation.

Trevor Parkinson: There must be a better use for tailings such as being used for road surfaces. Have you considered looking into better surfaces?

Richard Bailey: The coarse reject goes back into overburden. With fine rejects (clay and soft) the biggest issue is getting the water out. If the thickening works well, may mix with coarse reject and dispose into overburden.

Ken Weekes: How is it thickened?

Richard Bailey: Taller, thinner thickening tank. A lot more head to get more water out.

Energy Efficiency – focussing on energy efficient throughout the project. Looking at minimising energy loss from pumps, lights etc. Buildings are being designed to maximise natural lighting and ensure heat retention is appropriate for winter and

summer. Utilising technology which allows dragline operators to see how much energy they are using and to operate at maximum efficiency for minimum energy.

Community – currently recruiting an environmental specialist and community relations officer. Will have a preference for local purchasing and employment. Also looking at skills development to meet some local shortages such as electricians and fitters. Business development resulting from Mount Pleasant will be supported through CNA Trust Fund.

Upcoming Site Based Activities - Archaeological surveys are continuing – cultural clearers are looking for artefacts on site and logging GPS locations. Tree planting is planned for Autumn. This will involve fencing along Kayuga Road, Dorset Road and Wybong Road. Replenishing the areas where trees were planted last time that have been affected by the drought. Some new areas will also receive tree screening. Mine Lease survey involves confirming the boundary. Environmental monitoring will continue to monitor dust and noise. Various members of the project team and visitors will also be seen on site.

Chris Gidney: On the environmental monitoring. Can we have updates on monitoring to date? Need base data for greenfield sites.

Richard Bailey: Ruth will now present on this in the environmental report.

10. Environmental Monitoring and AEMR

Ruth Kinal: The Mount Pleasant Annual Environmental Management Report has recently been prepared for the 2006 reporting period. This will be an annual event from now on. The report was distributed to the relevant government authorities and all members of the Community Consultative Committee (CCC). It is available for public review at Muswellbrook Public Library. The report can include monitoring data from previous years if necessary.

Monitoring locations – the map shows the location of monitoring stations.

Jim Lonergan: The small maps are hard to read in the report.

Ruth Kinal: We can look into providing the aerials on A3 paper.

This figure illustrates the location of the Mount Pleasant environmental monitoring stations. Meteorological monitoring – rainfall, temperature, wind speed and wind direction (green star). Air quality monitoring – dust deposition (pink diamonds). Noise monitoring (yellow squares). Groundwater monitoring (light blue triangle). Surface water monitoring (dark blue triangle).

Rainfall - the cumulative rainfall was 365.6 mm. The highest rainfall day was 21 mm which fell on 13th April and there were 117 wet days.

Temperature – the maximum temperature was 43°C on 2nd Feb 2006. The minimum temperature was 0.4°C on 9th July 2006. Average temperature was 18.1°C.

Wind direction - North-north westerlies and south easterlies were the dominant winds. The maximum wind speed was 13 m/s and the average maximum was 5.4 m/s.

Dust Isopleth – There are 13 depositional dust gauges at Mount Pleasant which are used to monitor baseline dust levels prior to mining activity commencing. To allow for greater interpretation Bengalla Mining allow their data to be used to present a more regional picture. The areas in red represent elevated dust levels (levels greater than 4gms/m²/30days) and the blue area represents low (levels less than 2gms/m²/30days) dust deposition. Gauges within Muswellbrook show the area to be in the blue shaded area. Site D7 located in the centroid of the existing mining area recorded results above the EPA criteria, with an annual average of 15.9 g/m²/month. This gauge is located within fifty meters of the northern boundary of the Bengalla Mine main pit. The elevated dust (levels greater than 4gms/m²/30days shown in red) are generally greater in the proximity of the mining operation and work along the axis of the prevailing wind directions being north west and south-southeast.

Trevor Parkinson: There should be more dust gauges in people's backyard. This would stop people from whinging. It would prove that it is not as bad as what they think.

John Douglas: Are the location of the monitoring stations gazetted?

Stephen Sneddon: An EPL establishes a boundary line for the monitoring network and once an EPL is obtained more monitoring locations may be introduced. The monitoring network is watched over time to see trends. We are trying to get data from other operators to get a regional picture of what is happening. We will lose gauges as the operation progresses. These gauges were in before the EIS as they were needed to see trends. Real time stations will be put where they are needed.

Trevor Parkinson: I don't think Muswellbrook Open Cut dust monitor is working all the time as at time has a red light on.

Stephen Sneddon: We would prefer to work with existing monitoring networks to ensure the duplication of sites is minimised. Having gauges on top of each other is wasted resources.

Trevor Parkinson: Can people request a dust gauge in their backyard.

Stephen Sneddon: Each application is assessed individually and if needed we will install them.

Ken Weekes: If there are 10 years of history for these gauges can we see trends.

Trevor Parkinson: People in the community are complaining.

Ken Weekes: I have more dust in the swimming pool. There is a black layer on the pool.

Chris Gidney: Coal companies are being cooperative on this issue. There is a lot of monitoring occurring. Muswellbrook is somewhat unique in that there are mines 360 degrees around the town. People who are concerned about the dust should be directed to the hotline and/or council. Council also has its own monitoring station and data collection. One of the bigger problems is diesel from the Highway.

Ruth Kinal: Surface water - There are ten surface water monitoring sites surrounding the Mount Pleasant Project – results are obtained from these surface water sites monthly. There are only four of these sites which regularly have water present, Hunter River sites (W1-Hunter River-Upstream, W2-Hunter River Central Site and W6-Hunter River Downstream) and the W4-Muscel

Creek Site. The remaining six sites are ephemeral and only flow after very heavy rainfall events. pH ranged from 6.8 to 8.7. EC was generally between 300 uS/cm and 500 uS/cm with the exception of surface water site W4 which ranged from 1400 to 2200 uS/cm. This site has naturally occurring salts in soils and rocks, and monitoring prior to and since 2006 indicates a normal range of 600 to 3000 uS/cm.

Chris Gidney:

Where is W4 because they are very high results?

Stephen Sneddon:

W4 is on Muscle Creek, these levels have been like this for a long time.

Ruth Kinal:

TSS were generally between 0 and 14 mg/L throughout 2006. In August, TSS at monitoring site W6 increased to 26 mg/L. This increase is possibly due to rainfall on the 29th and 30th causing runoff from a nearby farm, washing material into the water and resulting in an increase in suspended solids in the river.

Groundwater – There are 25 groundwater monitoring sites. The Mount Pleasant site has been separated into three zones – central, eastern and western sites. Most central groundwater results were relatively stable. The EC for site 7000D000 increased from 4850 µS/cm in January to 6800 µS/cm in April and remained stable around 6500 µS/cm for the remainder of the reporting period.

Chris Gidney:

These figures are very high.

Stephen Sneddon:

These groundwater sites are the sites we have been reporting at each CCC and are in the area where the tailings dam is to be located. North of the Broomfield property. There has been no major change in this water quality.

Chris Gidney:

Is there livestock in this area using the water?

Stephen Sneddon:

Yes this area continues to be grazed as it always has only now there are fewer sheep. I am not sure if graziers are accessing the groundwater however higher salinity waters need to be carefully watched with stock. Water of this quality would not be suitable for lactating or young growing livestock and even for dry mature stock it would only be a short term option..

Ruth Kinal:

Noise – monitoring is conducted quarterly. High noise readings (above 37 LA10dB) were the result of a breeze in foliage, insects, traffic on the New England Highway and mining activities at Mt Arthur Coal and Bengalla Mine.

Jim Lonergan:

What does it mean in the AEMR where it says monitoring does not provide levels that could be considered representative?

Stephen Sneddon:

The monitoring is a snapshot in time and is an attended 15 minute grab and not long term continual monitoring. This monitoring over time allows for the identification of typical noise sources in the area.

Trevor Parkinson:

At 2am in the morning you can hear the dozers so it is good to see they are monitoring when the noise can be best heard.

Antony Bijok:

In time real time monitors will be used in a number of locations. If the levels are high then this will alert mine operators to investigate.

Richard Bailey:

The data collected to date will provide a baseline before the mine starts for a baseline.

Ruth Kinal:

All land management is in accordance with CNA practices. With respect to erosion and sediment management the dams are regularly inspected to assess cover growth and stability,

and to ensure that 75% of the design capacity is available for sediment containment. Topsoil stockpiles are inspected periodically for weeds. All disturbances to land are in accordance with the CNA generic vegetation removal and topsoil stripping procedure. In late 2006 the flora and fauna results in the EIS were reviewed to ensure consistency with the current circumstances.

Stephen Sneddon: CNA has a ground disturbance permit (GDP) process for all areas to be disturbed. A database shows what work is required and what disturbance can occur in each specific area. Sign off is required at many levels and it is a very prescriptive process.

Ruth Kinal: Cultural heritage - CNA in partnership with the Aboriginal community are in the process of preparing a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP). The plan will establish a program to mitigate the impact of the proposed mine development and to manage other cultural places and values. Studies required for this plan are being continued.

Stephen Sneddon: The environmental Contact Line works and there is now a Mount Pleasant Project Information Line 1800 727745 which is operational. The number will be published in future newsletters. At present the number will go to my desk phone which I will answer or will go to my answering machine. A newsletter communicating MtP is planned for early April. A CNA Trust meeting was held in February.

The Song Room was given \$121,100 to support an early intervention programme at three schools in the Upper Hunter. Students at Muswellbrook Public South, Merriwa Central School and Martindale Public School at Denman will be introduced to the programme. This is a proven model to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in youth. A pilot program of the Song Room concept was run across Australia and was shown to be successful.

The Community Trust will once again fund the Upper Hunter Science and Engineering Challenge in Muswellbrook in 2007 and 2008. The \$17,200 funding approval supports judges and other costs of conducting the Challenge. Yr 9 and 10.

Mini TAFE classes will be available to year 10 students in a cooperative effort with Merriwa Secondary School, Muswellbrook High School, Scone High School and St. Joseph's High School at Aberdeen. Funding of \$12,000 will support the initiative intended to support disadvantaged students. Developing skills at school.

Ruth Kinal: This figure illustrates the further tree planting for screening purposes which is proposed for 2007. Stage 1 (blue line) consists of tree screening on land previously planted and Stage 2 (pink line) involves planting on land owned by CNA but not previously planted. Fencing and tree planting will be carried out on Stage 3 (green line) privately owned land if the land is acquired at a future date.

Trevor Parkinson: Believe that trust fund should be used to support local employment in the Muswellbrook area as training of young people is of concern.

Antony Bijok: We are focussed on employing people that live in town and we realise that this will probably require more training and investment.

Stephen Sneddon: At the upcoming Muswellbrook show there will be an exhibit called "Bursting with Energy". One of the neighbouring mines will be bringing a truck driving simulator, which people can try out. This will give people the opportunity to see what it is like. Schools have also been notified of some career information that will be available.

11. Mine Life Planning

Stephen Sneddon: A planning process which commences during feasibility or early mine life stages, to consider the long-term impacts of mining, including closure. Involves consultation with the community and employees regarding closure planning to assist with understanding and minimising potential social, economic, environmental and employment impacts. CNA will continue to revisit the mine life planning for the Mount Pleasant site.

Risks – There are significant risk associated with poor closure planning, but significant opportunity arising from good integrated planning. Early planning is required to manage risks, including financial, reputational, operational risks. It is an opportunity to open up the dialogue between the community and the company and to better understand community expectations. There are legal, government and Rio Tinto requirements which must all be met. There is also a long lead times on many closure solutions.

Mine life planning status – the completed mine life planning is an assessment of the aspects and impacts of the mine. This includes consideration of air quality and employment among other things. We are currently creating a closure knowledge base. We are looking at engaging Hunter Valley Research Foundation to conduct a major socio-economic study. This study will be of the whole region. The census results from last years census will be out at the end of this year and will therefore provide the most up to date data. We are also considering decommissioning options.

Next meeting – we will have some baseline date and will be able to indicate what the approved options are. We will also have a discussion and get ideas from the CCC and others in the community. These discussions can generate a lot of ideas and can be built into the design.

12. Climate Change

Stephen Sneddon presented the Rio Tinto Climate Change Presentation.

Stephen Sneddon: Since 2003 Rio Tinto has been reporting to the Government about its climate change impact. Recently a questionnaire was sent to approximately 1500 Rio Tinto employees and about 500 responses were received. The findings of this survey should that 97% of employees believe that RTCA should be

doing something to address climate change. It also showed that 66% of employees are already undertaking action at home and 47% have done something at work.

Vision – I can bring the DVD of Doug Ritchie (head of RTCA) to our next meeting. The DVD shows that RTCA vision is to be part of the solution to climate change.

Should we believe in Climate Change – A panel of inter-governmental scientists has been established to review all published information relating to climate change. This research shows that over the last 400,000 years the level of carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere has never exceeded 280 parts per million. However, over the last century increasing energy demand has seen a rise in the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide from 280 parts per million to 370 parts per million. The data for this graph comes from historic ice cores for the historic and internationally accepted scenarios for the future based on expected energy use. In 2001 the concentration of carbon dioxide was 375 parts per million and at the current rate of development this is expected to increase to 680 parts per million. The world needs this growth but the levels are unsustainable. These scientists suggest that we need to stabilise emissions around 550 parts per million and to do so work needs to be done to minimise the current rate of emissions.

Temperature – temperature trends are starting to go up around the world and this has also been noticed in NSW. The droughts and other erratic weather in recent years are just spikes in the big picture. Satellite data shows that since 1979, the area of Arctic region sea ice has decreased by 15 to 20 per cent. A Rio Tinto diamond mine in Canada has been impacted by this weather shift as the 10 week period previously available to truck in materials is decreasing as the iced lakes are melting earlier than expected. This is a significant operational problem for this mine.

Rainfall - eastern Australia is expected to get significantly drier and north Western Australia will get progressively wetter. Major impact are risks in water supply, stream-flow, river discharge, irrigation systems, dam in-fill rates as well as an increases in the number of extreme events (rainfall and temperature).

Fossil Fuels – It is clear that burning coal is increasing the CO₂ emissions. Coal provides 25% of global primary energy needs, generates 40% of the world's electricity. Coal also generates 85% of Australia's electricity and contributes to 22% of global Greenhouse gas emissions. Oil and gas also account for 42% and 20% respectively, of fossil fuel emissions.

RTCA Climate Change Action Plan – RTCA recognise and believe in climate change and its effects and want to be part of the solution.

Clean Coal - Actively researching and promoting technologies that reduce CO₂ emissions from the use of coal or could ideally achieve zero emissions. It needs to be recognised that coal is going to be in the energy mix for a very long time. RTCA is

currently paying a levy per tonne of coal to fund clean coal technology research. This research is looking to carbon capture and storage and gasification. Storing underground is an existing technology utilised by oil companies. The capture of carbon needs to be cost effective and needs to reduce energy required to capture the CO₂.

Energy Management – the climate change project team is working at improving energy use at our operations, projects, supply chain and embedding the process into RTCA systems. From 2007 onwards, each site must have at least five energy saving plans. Have adopted a metering measurement and reporting for all buildings and significant energy using equipment. If energy use can be measured then improvements can be made on it. Also making some savings on diesel by using filtered waste oil as a diesel substitute.

Designing for the future – currently designing our projects recognising risks from climate change and opportunities in a changing policy environment. Other actions include reducing idle time on haul trucks which will save about 3000 tonnes/year. Investigating ways to reduce coal seam methane emissions – current investigations into a pipeline from Bulga to a power station to harness emissions. Also included as part of the capital approval process a necessity to consider of climate change impacts and energy efficiency.

Raising awareness – This involves educating and informing not only the workforce but also contractors and suppliers. We are asking suppliers to test new technologies and where necessary Rio Tinto is assisting suppliers to invest in this research. All air conditioners in buildings are now fixed at 23 degrees Celsius. A newsletter (called Mine Matters) has been generated and the February edition is all about Climate Change. All operations also have Climate Change champions to harness ideas and to drive improvement.

Stephen Sneddon: Provided all members of the CCC an energy efficient light bulb and a copy of the February edition of Mine Matters. Stephen will bring other fact sheets about climate change along to the CCC when they come out.

13. General Business:

Trevor Parkinson: Have any applications been received to fill in the 4th community position on the Mount Pleasant CCC.

Chris Gidney: Some applications have been received and these will go to the Council Meeting on Monday night (12th March). I should know the results of this by Tuesday.

Stephen Sneddon: CNA will be participating at the Muswellbrook Show as part of the bursting with energy expo.

Ken Weekes: The coal loader was very interesting but would now like to know the stages the coal goes through before it reaches the coal loader. This will help to get a feel for what Mount Pleasant will be like. It would be good to get an idea of how it all goes together and this will give use an idea on some of the limitations.

- Stephen Sneddon: Do you want to include the Coal Prep Plant. We could make a whole day of it.
- Ken Weekes: There has been a bit of information overload today. I think it will require more regular meetings to achieve it.
- John Douglas: The coal loader trip was great. Think shorter meetings would be good, but also aware of the time commitments of the CNA employees.
- Ken Weekes: How about we have meetings every 2 months if getting a lot of information in the meetings. Meeting dates should be dependent on what is being presented.
- John Douglas: Would prefer more regular and shorter meetings rather than one long day. Every 2 months so more information can be presented. This will be 6 meetings a year then. Can someone provide a calendar of dates. Does 1pm suit everyone.

14. Visit to Mt Pleasant Project Town Office (19 Bridge Street)

Richard Bailey offered to take any interested member of the CCC to visit the Mount Pleasant Project Office in Muswellbrook but no one was interested.

15. Date and time of next meeting.

Date: Thursday 1pm, 10th May 2007

*Venue:*19 Bridge Street – Muswellbrook

Proposed dates for remainder of 2007:

5th July 1pm

6th September 1pm

8th November 1pm

Meeting Closed: Meeting closed at 3:25pm by John Douglas.